(5) Access to confidential records to University Teachers.

Resolution by Dr.M.A. Muttalib

Resolved that the existing procedure for the supply of confidential records to University teachers may be streamlined with a view to minimise delay.

Proceedings

Resolution at serial numbers (3), (4), & (5) were not taken up due to the absence of the mover.

(6) Administration and Management of State Archives Offices

(a) Control and Administration by Universities

Resolution by Dr.Bakhshish Singh Nijjar

Archives and the Record Repositories should not be located in the premises of the Universities.

Explanatory Note

There have been in the past various attempts by certain Universities to secure the control of State Archives in order to conduct researches on the archival material. The Archives are in fact State Repositories of records created by different branches of State Administration. All the non-current records of permanent nature relating to every institution of the State are housed in the State Archives for their being preserved in good condition.

As the Universities are autonomous bodies, these records, which are public records, concerning every branch of State Administration, should not in any case be put under their jurisdiction.

The public and research scholars make use of the archival material for their personal ends. Private individuals apply for the issue of certified copies of documents in connection with their cases and the Government agencies also ask for original files for the dispoal of cases. Similarly other individuals visit the Archives for different purposes. research scholars other than those attached to the Universities also utilise the material deposited in the Archives. People from all walks of life, and foreigners too, come to the State Archives to have a look at the cultural life of the people of a certain age, in the same way as they go to an exhibition of paintings, sketches, contemporary books and manuscripts. The State Archives as an institution is not wholly meant for research scholars of the Universities; they are of equal value to the general public.

Moreover, a University is not at all a safe place for archival material, in view of the unrest prevailing amongst students these days. They resort to strikes on some ground or the other and consequently great damage is done to University property. This unrest among students is well manifestednot only in India but all the world over. Hence, to place archival material in the custody of a University is not at all advisable. These records should, therefore, remain in the State Archives directly controlled by the Government. Necessary facilities should, however, be extended to the research scholars coming from the Universities.

Proceedings

In the discussion that followed, Members emphasised that the sentiments of the proposed Resolution were voiced by the Commission in its 40th session in connection with the Mysore State Archives. But the present Resolution was purely negative and hypothetical. After discussing the various pros and cons of the problem, the Commission rejected the resolution.

(b) Need for uniform system of management and administration

Resolution by Dr.M.N.Das

Resolved that a uniform system of management and administration be adopted for all the State Archives of India with specific directives and regulations for archival affairs.

Explanatory Note

The sizes of different State Archives may remain different, but the utility of a uniform system of principles and functions, with a common administrative pattern for all of them, cannot be denied. At present, smaller Archives have not only an adequate, not to speak of trained staff, but do not have a precise idea of the exact functions expected of those. Without uniform rules and regulations, the expected duties and functions remain more or less matters of secondary importance. The utility and value of Archives are also not properly understood by the public when the Archives themselves have no definite functional programmes. Moreover, without regulations to that effect, the gulf between the researcher and the Archives remains wide.